



General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 July 2021

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Forty-eighth session
13 September–1 October 2021
Agenda item 6
Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Sierra Leone

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.



Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-eighth session from 3 to 14 May 2021. The review of Sierra Leone was held at the 16th meeting, on 12 May 2021. The delegation of Sierra Leone was headed by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Anthony Yehiwoe Brewah. At its 17th meeting, held on 14 May 2021, the Working Group adopted the report on Sierra Leone.
2. On 12 January 2021, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Sierra Leone: China, Libya and Mexico.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Sierra Leone:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);¹
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);²
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).³
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Canada, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Spain, Sweden and the United States of America was transmitted to Sierra Leone through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation stated that Sierra Leone had made significant efforts to improve the human rights situation in its territory since its second universal periodic review in 2016, and had implemented many recommendations. However, those related to consensual same-sex relationships among adults and to female genital mutilation had been noted, as they conflicted with Sierra Leonean laws and cultural values.
6. Challenges persisted regarding persons with disabilities, who continued to experience some challenges in Sierra Leone, in the areas of health care, employment, transportation and education. Newly adopted measures in this regard included the “Visibility of Disability” policy to mainstream disability issues at all levels of national life. This policy had been developed with the participation of civil society organizations. The National Rehabilitation Programme had also been adopted to deliver technology-assisted services for enhancing mobility for persons with disabilities.
7. Protection of the rights of children, persons with disabilities, women, and other persons in vulnerable situations was central to the country’s Medium-term National Development Plan for 2019–2023. In addition, a comprehensive mapping of Sierra Leonean domestic legislation had been developed, from a gender perspective. The mapping was aimed at reviewing legislation affecting women and girls and had been carried out in consultation with the International Development Law Organization and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). Furthermore, a Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Policy had been developed.

¹ A/HRC/WG.6/38/SLE/1.

² A/HRC/WG.6/38/SLE/2.

³ A/HRC/WG.6/38/SLE/3.

8. Sierra Leone had ratified the main human rights treaties. Although the country was not yet a party to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the delegation highlighted the establishment of a Sexual Offences Model Court to apply the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2019. The Court aimed to protect women and girls by increasing the punishment for a conviction of rape or other sexual offences against children to a maximum of life in prison. Moreover, due to concerns about the adverse effect of setting the age of criminal responsibility at 14 years, plans were under way to remove those provisions from the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2019 and consequently from the sentencing guidelines for sexual penetration cases issued on 6 January 2020.

9. The delegation highlighted the role of the expert committee that had reviewed the Justice Cowan Constitutional Review Report and the 2018 Government White Paper, the recommendations of which had been approved by the country's Cabinet.

10. Regarding the issue of the death penalty, the delegation stated that the Cabinet had approved the abolition of the death penalty, and that the Deputy Minister of Justice had already briefed the Leader of Government Business in Parliament, the Opposition Leader in Parliament, the British High Commission and the United Nations in Sierra Leone about this. The number of prisoners on death row had not increased, and furthermore, the drafted Amendments to the Treason and State Offences Act 1963 were awaiting submission to Parliament for enactment.

11. Regarding the independence of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, the delegation stressed the country's commitment to the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). The Human Rights Commission had been reorganized in 2018, to ensure compliance with the Human Rights Act and the 1991 Constitution. In response to queries raised by the Chairperson of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, the Government of Sierra Leone had provided a statement detailing the legal and policy reasons for reorganizing its national institutions, including the Human Rights Commission. The delegation indicated that all commissioners had taken up their duties in April 2019, including two women, following an open recruitment process.

12. The delegation also noted that Sierra Leone remained a State party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, where a Sierra Leonean judge had been elected to serve from 2021 to 2030, and that the country would continue to support the work of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone.

13. Regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic situation, a state of emergency had been declared, and the Government's response to the pandemic was consistent with domestic legislation and the country's international human rights obligations. Measures taken to protect the health and well-being of the population included travel restrictions, periodic lockdowns and night curfews. These measures had impacted human rights, including the right to movement and association, yet they were proportionate, reasonable, necessary and in accordance with the Constitution of Sierra Leone.

14. The delegation emphasized the commitment of Sierra Leone to the Sustainable Development Goals. Access to justice for all and universal education were the twin pillars of the Medium-term National Development Plan, two goals that would be critical in the country's 2021 voluntary national review.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

15. During the interactive dialogue, 102 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

16. Tunisia commended institutional and policy measures tackling sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, and protecting victims from Ebola.

17. Turkey highlighted efforts on education, anti-corruption, social security, civil registration and vital statistics, gender equality and measures against sexual violence.
18. Uganda commended the COVID-19 response, and the inclusion of pregnant girls in education, and encouraged Sierra Leone to further protect girls against all forms of sexual violence.
19. Ukraine urged further efforts against sexual and gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation. It welcomed the Independent Media Commission Act, measures against corruption and improvements to the judicial system.
20. The United Arab Emirates appreciated measures taken to improve vulnerable groups' standards of living, including supporting relevant national institutions.
21. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland urged Sierra Leone to protect freedom of expression, including in digital space. It welcomed steps to abolish the death penalty.
22. The United States of America commended the signing into law of the Public Order (Amendment) Act, which decriminalized seditious libel and slander. It was concerned about excessive use of force by law enforcement authorities, often carried out with impunity.
23. Uruguay welcomed the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy, the withdrawal of the ban on pregnant girls from school, and the announcement of the abolishment of the death penalty.
24. Zambia commended Sierra Leone for having ratified seven of the nine human rights treaties.
25. Zimbabwe praised the country's COVID-19 package, the scrapping of the ban on pregnant girls from education, and the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy.
26. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela appreciated the COVID-19 policies, the decision to allow pregnant girls to attend schools, and measures against sexual and gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation.
27. Albania welcomed the announcement of the abolishment of the death penalty, and the policies adopted to combat violence against women and children. It encouraged Sierra Leone to eliminate violence against women.
28. Angola commended the adoption of the citizenship law and the measures adopted on child protection and gender mainstreaming.
29. Argentina commended the progress made in improving the civil registration system throughout the country.
30. Armenia welcomed the fact that the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions had granted "A" status to the Human Rights Commission.
31. Australia commended the decision to allow girls who were pregnant or had a child to attend school and the establishment of centres for victims of sexual violence.
32. Azerbaijan acknowledged efforts regarding rights of women and girls, and persons with disabilities, commended policies on reducing poverty and on development, and encouraged Sierra Leone to take further measures to ensure women's right to health.
33. Bahrain commended efforts to advance human rights, combat the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen women's empowerment.
34. Belgium welcomed the decriminalization of defamation and the lifting of the ban on pregnant girls attending school.
35. Botswana appreciated the legislative and administrative architecture promoting human rights, and commended efforts to address trafficking in women and children.
36. Brazil encouraged Sierra Leone to increase its efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation, child marriage and child labour and to empower persons with disabilities.

37. Burkina Faso encouraged Sierra Leone to continue efforts to end female genital mutilation, early marriages and forced marriages.
38. Burundi appreciated measures taken to improve the administration of justice, and access to health care and education, and to respond to COVID-19.
39. Cambodia welcomed the ratification of a number of international human rights instruments, and efforts to promote gender equality and to reduce poverty.
40. Cameroon acknowledged progress in the promotion and protection of human rights and noted the positive dynamic in Sierra Leone.
41. Canada commended progress in protecting women's and girls' rights and encouraged the adoption of the Affirmative Action Bill.
42. Chad noted with satisfaction the significant progress made by Sierra Leone in the promotion and protection of human rights.
43. Chile valued the commitment of Sierra Leone to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals.
44. China appreciated the social protection system to counter COVID-19, the protection of vulnerable groups and the promotion of harmonious coexistence.
45. The Plurinational State of Bolivia recognized the efforts made by Sierra Leone in protecting human rights and made recommendations.
46. Costa Rica welcomed the legal reforms regarding access to education for girls and women.
47. Côte d'Ivoire congratulated Sierra Leone on the reforms undertaken in the justice sector and on the ratification of international and regional instruments relating to gender discrimination.
48. Croatia regretted the increase in sexual and gender-based violence and the increased number of children detained in deplorable conditions. It urged Sierra Leone to adopt child-friendly approaches.
49. Cuba recognized the country's efforts in the area of health and the priority given to primary care and health care.
50. Czechia noted the efforts to eliminate gender-based violence and gender inequality and encouraged Sierra Leone to take further steps to address this challenge.
51. The Democratic Republic of the Congo welcomed the policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women, and the law on the fight against corruption.
52. Denmark expressed concern about the continued harmful practices against girls and remained concerned about the continued use of the death penalty.
53. Djibouti welcomed the ratification of seven ILO conventions and the legal reforms adopted to promote and protect human rights.
54. Ecuador recognized the modification of the Citizenship Act and the Anti-Corruption Act.
55. Egypt appreciated the support for the health-care sector and social protection networks for vulnerable groups in response to COVID-19, and efforts to combat corruption.
56. Eswatini noted the progress made by Sierra Leone in implementing recommendations from the second cycle of the universal periodic review.
57. Ethiopia commended the implementation of previous recommendations, and the cluster policy on empowering women, children and persons with disabilities in the Medium-term National Development Plan.
58. Fiji commended the abolition of criminal libel laws and the lifting of the ban on pregnant girls in school.

59. Finland appreciated the engagement of Sierra Leone in the universal periodic review process.
60. France encouraged continued efforts to protect human rights.
61. Gabon welcomed the steps to protect vulnerable groups and the 2017 policy guaranteeing equal rights for women and men with regard to land resources.
62. Georgia appreciated the intention to abolish the death penalty. Georgia acknowledged continued efforts to end female genital mutilation.
63. Germany commended the special court on sexual and gender-based violence and the revocation of the law preventing pregnant girls and mothers from attending school. It regretted cases of female genital mutilation, police violence and the death penalty.
64. Ghana praised the Independent Police Complaints Board, the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. It commended the policy of “radical inclusion and comprehensive safety” for universal education.
65. The Holy See acknowledged efforts in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic. It welcomed the Free Quality Education Scheme.
66. Iceland welcomed the national report, and the steps outlined and hoped for their continued implementation.
67. The delegation indicated that, in addition to its efforts to ratify the core human rights treaties, periodic reports had been submitted to treaty bodies, and the Government had extended a standing open invitation to all Human Rights Council special procedure mandate holders. The Government would favourably consider reviewing outstanding human rights treaties with the aim of ratifying them.
68. In addition, in July 2019, seven protocols and conventions of the International Labour Organization had been ratified by Sierra Leone, showing the country’s commitment to domesticating these instruments.
69. Regarding the country’s national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up, the delegation expressed its gratitude to OHCHR for its support with the National Recommendations Tracking Database. Sierra Leone would incorporate the database into its revised National Reporting Strategy and its Human Rights Action Plan. The authorities looked forward to engaging with partners for further support for their efforts.
70. In 2017, the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes had visited Sierra Leone. In response to the Special Rapporteur’s recommendations, the country’s emergency preparedness and response capabilities had been strengthened.
71. The delegation appreciated the fact that the National Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone continued to be supported by the United Nations Development Programme, OHCHR, the Embassy of Ireland, the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions, the Embassy of China and the Delegation of the European Union to Sierra Leone.
72. Policies and activities in areas such as pretrial detention, prison overcrowding and delays in the prosecution of cases had been developed. The authorities were working on a holistic criminal justice reform agenda, which included decluttering and upgrading detention facilities.
73. With respect to access to justice, a number of justice institutions had been established, including the Sexual Offences Model Court, the Anti-Corruption Specialized Court and the Legal Aid Board, and, according to the delegation, the authorities had continued to strengthen anti-corruption laws and the President, Julius Maada Bio, had insisted that no one be spared in the fight against corruption.
74. The judiciary enjoyed the constitutional guarantees of judicial independence, competence and impartiality, and its capacity had been strengthened.
75. The Government had abolished the death penalty and awaited the availability of Parliament in order to present the Amended Bills for enactment.

76. The Government had expressed concern about the issue of land rights and about the disadvantage that women were at, due to customary laws, in regard to the transfer of land. The authorities were fully committed to respecting and protecting equitable and legal land ownership.
77. To address the problem of equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, and to ensure proper sanitation and hygiene, Parliament had passed three acts in 2017. The delegation stated that even though challenges remained, important strides had been made.
78. With regard to freedom of expression, the criminal libel law that had given political leaders the power to silence their critics or opponents had been repealed in 2020. As a direct result of this repeal, all criminal libel cases in court had been dismissed.
79. The delegation stated that the Government regretted that some political demonstrations had led to deaths, injuries and destruction. The police and the National Human Rights Commission had investigated those cases and prosecutions were currently ongoing, and an Independent Commission on Peace and National Cohesion was in the process of being set up.
80. On the cybercrime bill, according to the delegation nothing in the bill could be used to stifle freedom of expression or the media. Moreover, Sierra Leone had consulted its regional and development partners in drafting the bill.
81. Regretting some instances of excessive use of force by officers, the delegation stated that errant officers would be investigated, and punished if convicted, and that more intensive training of the police was planned.
82. Regarding anti-corruption measures, three commissions of inquiry had been established to investigate alleged graft by officials of the previous administration. The Government would follow the commissions' recommendations, focusing on the restitution of stolen wealth rather than punitive criminal actions.
83. The delegation indicated that the policy banning female genital mutilation initiation of girls under the age of 18 remained in force and that there had been a decline in the rate of female genital mutilation from 98 per cent in 2007 to 78 per cent in 2019.
84. With respect to the rights of the child, Sierra Leone was gradually moving towards education for all children and was addressing the discrimination against children affected by HIV/AIDS or orphaned by Ebola and other child protection-related issues. The delegation added that Sierra Leone was taking steps to prevent child labour in all its manifestations.
85. Sierra Leone remained committed to ensuring that the birth of every child was registered on time, to providing refugee children with a birth certificate and to continuing to fund the National Civil Registration Authority.
86. The delegation noted that in 2020 Sierra Leone had submitted its first country report under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
87. India thanked the delegation for its presentation.
88. Indonesia praised the "Saving Lives and Saving Livelihoods" strategy to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.
89. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended the progress made and the continued efforts to promote and protect human rights, and made recommendations.
90. Iraq welcomed the establishment of a committee to implement the National Action Plan on Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security, and the Medium-term National Development Plan.
91. Ireland welcomed the implementation of previous recommendations to repeal the criminal libel provisions of the Public Order Act and to lift the ban on pregnant girls attending school.
92. Italy commended the vote in favour of the General Assembly resolution for a universal moratorium on the death penalty and praised the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy.

93. Japan appreciated the progress on women's rights, including their right to confer citizenship as well as their equitable access to land resources.
94. Jordan praised the oral update highlighting the measures taken to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.
95. Kenya commended the lifting of the ban on pregnant girls in education and welcomed the laws on protecting women and girls.
96. The Lao People's Democratic Republic noted progress in promoting gender equality, women's empowerment, the right to education and poverty reduction, through the implementation of previous recommendations.
97. Latvia welcomed the delegation and its national report.
98. Lebanon welcomed the lifting of the ban on pregnant girls attending school, which had prevented them from pursuing their studies and from educational achievement.
99. Lesotho noted the amendment of the Sexual Offences Act to end gender-based violence.
100. Libya applauded steps taken to enhance women's participation in political life and improve women's opportunities to occupy leadership positions.
101. Malawi commended the reforms of the judiciary, and the enactment of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2019, which had increased the punishment for a conviction for rape.
102. Malaysia welcomed the transition from a Peacebuilding Commission-agenda country to an aspiring middle-income country by 2035, and hoped for further progress.
103. Maldives welcomed efforts to advance human rights domestically and measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic.
104. Mali commended Sierra Leone for the initiatives adopted on human rights and for its cooperation with regional and international mechanisms. It encouraged Sierra Leone to continue fighting trafficking in persons.
105. Mauritania applauded efforts to combat COVID-19, and the response strategy. It welcomed cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.
106. Mauritius applauded the "Hands Off Our Girls" campaign as part of the national response against sexual and gender-based violence.
107. Mexico welcomed the creation of the special tribunal to hear sexual violence cases, and of the "Hands Off Our Girls" campaign.
108. Montenegro commended the response to COVID-19. Despite efforts in addressing harmful traditional practices, Montenegro regretted the prevalence of female genital mutilation.
109. Morocco noted positively the implementation of a national mid-term development plan to combat poverty and improve the education system.
110. Mozambique recognized the socioeconomic difficulties and challenges that impacted the human rights situation, which included COVID-19.
111. Namibia applauded Sierra Leone for reversing policies that had prevented pregnant girls from returning to school, and for declaring sexual violence a national emergency.
112. Nepal praised the National Land Policy for ensuring equitable access and control over land resources for women.
113. The Netherlands encouraged Sierra Leone to combat discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and expressed concern about widespread female genital mutilation.
114. The Niger praised the strengthening of sentences for sexual offences and the establishment of a special court for these crimes.

115. Nigeria took positive note of the efforts to tackle sexual and gender-based violence, as well as of women's empowerment.
116. Pakistan commended efforts on poverty reduction, social safety nets for the most vulnerable, and the gender equality and women's empowerment policy.
117. Paraguay thanked Sierra Leone for the presentation of its national report.
118. Peru recognized the progress achieved, in particular the adoption of the strategy to reduce teenage pregnancy and child marriage.
119. The Philippines expressed support for the efforts by Sierra Leone to address corruption and to strengthen protection of women and girls from violence.
120. Poland appreciated the growing respect for the rights of persons with disabilities and welcomed the declaration of the President on the abolishment of the death penalty.
121. Portugal welcomed the efforts of Sierra Leone to implement the universal periodic review recommendations.
122. Qatar commended progress in the education sector and encouraged additional efforts to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups.
123. The Russian Federation noted that the efforts to rectify the human rights situation, including with regard to women's rights and domestic violence, were not enough.
124. Rwanda appreciated the launch of the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy and the appointment of women to senior government positions.
125. Senegal commended the budget increase for the National Commission for Persons with Disability and the ratification and current domestication process of seven ILO conventions.
126. Serbia welcomed measures strengthening the independence of the judiciary and the efficient response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
127. Slovenia urged implementation of the National Strategy for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy and Child Marriage. It was concerned about female genital mutilation.
128. Somalia commended various human rights laws and policies, and measures to preserve human rights during the COVID-19 pandemic.
129. South Africa commended the launch of six pilot one-stop centres to provide services to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.
130. South Sudan commended the efforts to improve human rights and the engagement with international human rights mechanisms.
131. Spain welcomed progress in protecting the rights of girls and women.
132. Sri Lanka commended the justice sector reforms, the efforts against corruption, the strengthened health system capacity, the campaign to protect girls and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
133. The Sudan welcomed steps against corruption, including the amendment of the Anti-Corruption Act.
134. Sweden welcomed the work undertaken to address violence against women and girls but stressed that serious challenges remained.
135. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that despite approved legal standards for protecting women's rights, challenges continued because of social customs.
136. Timor-Leste congratulated Sierra Leone on the National Strategy for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy and Child Marriage, the amended Citizenship Act, and progress regarding the civil registration system.
137. Togo welcomed the abolition of criminal defamation legislation and the ongoing constitutional review process.

138. The delegation reported that in 2020, the National Disaster Management Agency, which addressed environment risks, waste management and uncontrolled urbanization, had been launched.

139. On the issue of child and human trafficking, the Anti-Human Trafficking Act 2005 was under review.

140. Regarding COVID-19, the Government had provided medical equipment, social protection programmes, and support to households with vulnerable persons, to respond to the pandemic.

141. With respect to land issues, the new National Land Policy was designed to safeguard tenure rights, ensure equal access to land and protect the rights of all citizens without discrimination.

142. The delegation expressed the intention of Sierra Leone to seek the views and support of its people regarding the recommendations received during its third universal periodic review. Therefore, Sierra Leone would carefully examine all the recommendations received and would indicate its position by the next session of the Human Rights Council, in September 2021. Sierra Leone would continue to fulfil its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights, using the universal periodic review mechanism as a critical tool to interact with recommendations and with global commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals. Finally, the delegation called upon the international community, development partners and civil society organizations to remain engaged with Sierra Leone as it moved towards the next stage in the current review cycle.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

143. **The following recommendations will be examined by Sierra Leone, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council:**

143.1 **Take the necessary steps to ratify international legal instruments on human rights which it has not yet ratified (Niger);**

143.2 **Accelerate the domestication of provisions of the human rights treaties to which it is a party (Zimbabwe);**

143.3 **Consider accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Armenia); Make progress towards ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Chile);**

143.4 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina) (Czechia) (France) (Japan) (Malawi);**

143.5 **Make progress towards ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**

143.6 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Czechia) (Denmark) (Finland) (Montenegro);**

143.7 **Promote prompt ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and make progress in the establishment of a national mechanism for the prevention of torture (Uruguay); Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and designate a national preventive mechanism accordingly (Armenia);**

143.8 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death**

penalty (Latvia); Make progress towards ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Chile);

143.9 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Belgium) (Czechia) (Rwanda); Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Ukraine);

143.10 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and abolish the use of the death penalty in all circumstances, and as a first step adopt an official moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Finland); Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and, in any case, and urgently, establish a moratorium that prevents the application of the death penalty (Spain);

143.11 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Belgium) (Namibia); Finalize the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women signed in September 2008 (Democratic Republic of the Congo);

143.12 Consider ratifying outstanding international instruments: of note are the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ghana);

143.13 Ratify all pending core international human rights treaties, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, to progress with Sustainable Development Goals 5, 11, 13 and 16 (Paraguay);

143.14 Make progress towards ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Chile);

143.15 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Burkina Faso);

143.16 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Finland);

143.17 Consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Mauritius);

143.18 Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Togo);

143.19 Accede to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);

143.20 Ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (Senegal);

143.21 Consider accession to the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries (Armenia);

143.22 Implement the seven ILO conventions on the rights of workers by the Government of Sierra Leone (South Sudan);

- 143.23 **Build capacity for reporting on the various instruments to the relevant treaty bodies (Jordan);**
- 143.24 **Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 143.25 **Strengthen cooperation with special mechanisms of OHCHR by extending standing invitations to all special procedures (Lesotho);**
- 143.26 **Establish a permanent mechanism for implementing, reporting and follow-up of human rights recommendations, and consider the possibility of receiving cooperation to that effect, in the framework of Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 17 (Paraguay);**
- 143.27 **Resume a meaningful constitutional review process and ensure that the White Paper is in line with international and regional human rights obligations (Ecuador);**
- 143.28 **Complete the constitutional review process (Ukraine);**
- 143.29 **Finalize the Constitution review and ensure that its provision on non-discrimination is in full compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Zambia);**
- 143.30 **Continue with efforts at constitutional reform, in line with national priorities (Sri Lanka);**
- 143.31 **Continue efforts to further improve national legislation in terms of realization of human rights and freedoms (Russian Federation);**
- 143.32 **Intensify the realization of civil and political, economic, social and cultural rights (Cameroon);**
- 143.33 **Provide the Human Rights Commission with the necessary resources to fulfil its mandate (Togo);**
- 143.34 **Exert further efforts aimed at the strengthening of national human rights institutions (Armenia);**
- 143.35 **Strengthen the National Human Rights Commission (Cameroon);**
- 143.36 **Continue to support the work of the National Human Rights Institution (Qatar);**
- 143.37 **Consider allocating adequate resources to strengthen and enable the National Human Rights Commission to work in full compliance with the Paris Principles (India);**
- 143.38 **Guarantee the financial and budgetary autonomy necessary to ensure the effective functioning of the National Human Rights Commission in order that it carries out its mission and complies with its goals (Paraguay);**
- 143.39 **Ensure the allocation of adequate resources to the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone to enable the Commission to discharge its mandate in line with the Paris Principles (Zambia);**
- 143.40 **Allocate more financial resources to the Human Rights Commission to enable it to continue to carry out its mandate effectively (Senegal);**
- 143.41 **Enhance the continued efforts of the Government to provide the necessary support to the Human Rights Commission, in accordance with the Paris Principles (South Sudan);**
- 143.42 **Strengthen key human rights institutions focusing on the protection of women and children and eliminating violence against them (Bahrain);**
- 143.43 **Provide the family support unit with the necessary resources and strengthen its implementation mechanisms (Syrian Arab Republic);**

- 143.44 **Develop a national human rights action plan (Jordan);**
- 143.45 **Develop a national action plan for human rights (Qatar);**
- 143.46 **Take administrative and legislative measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 143.47 **Pass anti-discrimination legislation to explicitly extend protection to LGBTI persons and prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or sex characteristics (Australia);**
- 143.48 **Decriminalize same-sex sexual relations between consenting adults by repealing sections 61 and 62 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, and pass legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Canada);**
- 143.49 **Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex, and expand its anti-discrimination legislation to include a prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Iceland);**
- 143.50 **Decriminalize consensual same-sex relations (Italy);**
- 143.51 **Repeal the 1861 law which criminalizes same-sex sexual activity between men (United States of America);**
- 143.52 **Repeal the law that prohibits consensual sexual relations between adult men (Spain);**
- 143.53 **Investigate effectively complaints regarding restriction of the enjoyment of the freedoms of expression and assembly of LGBTI people, as well as attacks, arbitrary detentions and other forms of intimidation and violence against them (Spain);**
- 143.54 **Adopt measures that compel mining companies to contribute towards sustainable economic and social development in the areas in which they operate (Angola);**
- 143.55 **Ensure that women, children, persons with disabilities, minority groups and local communities are meaningfully engaged in the development and implementation of climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks (Fiji);**
- 143.56 **Allocate more funds towards establishing a comprehensive social protection system to curb the impacts of natural disasters on vulnerable groups in society, such as women, and persons with disabilities, by ensuring their social and economic rights (Maldives);**
- 143.57 **Sustain efforts for the effective implementation of the National Medium-term Development Plan 2018–2023 by using the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the guiding framework (Maldives);**
- 143.58 **Intensify efforts to accelerate the implementation of module 1 of the National Mid-term Development Plan 2019–2023 (Mauritania);**
- 143.59 **Continue taking steps to mitigate COVID-related socioeconomic challenges that may hinder progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (Pakistan);**
- 143.60 **Continue with efforts for implementation of the mid-term national development plan (Pakistan);**
- 143.61 **Proceed with the abolition of the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Australia);**
- 143.62 **Abolish the death penalty for all crimes and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (France);**

- 143.63 Fully abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Iceland);
- 143.64 Abolish the death penalty and commute death sentences to custodial sentences for those currently on death row (Mexico);
- 143.65 Consider de jure abolition of the death penalty and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Italy);
- 143.66 Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);
- 143.67 Take measures to implement the presidential decree to abolish the death penalty in law (Albania);
- 143.68 Take all the necessary measures to abolish the death penalty (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 143.69 Abolish the death penalty (Germany);
- 143.70 Enact legislation as soon as possible to abolish the death penalty (Ireland);
- 143.71 Implement its public ambition to abolish the death penalty as soon as possible via promoting relevant legislation through Parliament this year (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 143.72 Adopt all necessary actions to abolish the death penalty, including the establishment of a moratorium on capital punishment (Brazil);
- 143.73 Establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition, and ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Costa Rica);
- 143.74 Instate a de facto moratorium on the death penalty and move towards complete abolition (Denmark);
- 143.75 Retain the moratorium on the death penalty in all circumstances and work towards its complete abolition (Latvia);
- 143.76 Undertake all necessary measures to abolish the death penalty and to guarantee living conditions in detention that respect international standards and human dignity (Holy See);
- 143.77 Continue the de facto moratorium on the death penalty and further take steps towards its legal abolition (Nepal);
- 143.78 Prioritize the acceleration of parliamentary processes to enshrine the abolition of the death penalty in law and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Uruguay);
- 143.79 Make progress towards definitive abolition of the death penalty, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Paraguay);
- 143.80 Ensure that all police officers and military personnel are aware of and abide by international human rights standards (Germany);
- 143.81 Introduce legislation to enhance accountability of police officers and military personnel, strengthen monitoring mechanisms, investigate any case of excessive use of force and bring perpetrators to justice (Germany);
- 143.82 Take effective measures, including at the legislative level, to combat human rights violations by law enforcement officers (Russian Federation);

- 143.83 Advance the human rights-based training for police and military officers to further prevent the practice of torture (Indonesia);
- 143.84 Continue efforts to reform and develop the prison system, reduce prison overcrowding in line with international human rights standards, and take all the necessary measures to restore justice and combat impunity (Libya);
- 143.85 Allocate increased budget resources to address harsh and life-threatening prison conditions, including overcrowding, inadequate sanitation, and lack of clean water and health care (United States of America);
- 143.86 Adopt measures to prevent overcrowding in penitentiary centres and improve the conditions of persons deprived of their liberty (Mexico);
- 143.87 Continue to make efforts to reduce the length of pretrial detention (Uganda);
- 143.88 Pass the Criminal Procedure Bill into law in order to reduce prolonged pretrial detention periods (Malawi);
- 143.89 Continue to support the independence of the judiciary and combat impunity (Bahrain);
- 143.90 Provide updated human rights training to the local court Chairs (Timor-Leste);
- 143.91 Evaluate the possibility of strengthening the allocation of available resources to implement the law on local courts and to strengthen the oversight mechanisms of the local courts (Peru);
- 143.92 Combat impunity by ensuring prompt, thorough and transparent investigations of all violations against human rights defenders by law enforcement, and by prosecuting perpetrators (Canada);
- 143.93 Implement all possible measures to expedite the processing of judicial cases, especially those related to children detained without charges (Ecuador);
- 143.94 Ensure fair and independent investigations and accountability on alleged cases of excessive use of force by law enforcement (Italy);
- 143.95 Ensure fair trials by limiting recourse to local tribal courts (Lebanon);
- 143.96 Ensure a verified, comprehensive and publicly accessible record of all casualties of armed conflict, in collaboration with civil society and other relevant stakeholders (Croatia);
- 143.97 Continue progress achieved on the independence of the judiciary and the strengthening of the rule of law (Mauritania);
- 143.98 Further promote access to justice through the appropriate policies and programmes (Sri Lanka);
- 143.99 Adopt child-friendly approaches in juvenile justice and alternative non-custodial measures for children (Montenegro);
- 143.100 Continue efforts to combat corruption and to strengthen the principles of transparency and the rule of law within the framework of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy for the period 2019–2023 (Tunisia);
- 143.101 Investigate and hold accountable officials involved in corrupt practices, while improving transparent governance (United States of America);
- 143.102 Consider reforms to strengthen the financial, institutional and operational independence of the commission to combat corruption (Peru);
- 143.103 Intensify its efforts combating corruption and impunity, and ensure effective legal representation, especially for the most vulnerable (Somalia);

- 143.104 Continue efforts to fight against corruption, and strengthen institutional capacities to effectively detect and investigate cases of corruption, including through implementing the amended Anti-Corruption Act (Sudan);
- 143.105 Strengthen measures to combat corruption, and reinforce institutional capacities to effectively detect and investigate cases of corruption (Rwanda);
- 143.106 Repeal or expunge part III of the Public Order Act 1965 dealing with processions in order to protect freedom of peaceful assembly (Canada);
- 143.107 Guarantee freedom of expression without distinction and adopt the necessary measures to eliminate any legal provision that curtails the enjoyment of freedom of expression, including on the Internet (Chile);
- 143.108 Ensure the legal protection of human rights defenders so that they can carry out their activities safely and without reprisals (Chile);
- 143.109 Ensure the full enjoyment of freedom of expression for all, including journalists, human rights defenders and opposition members (Czechia);
- 143.110 Ensure the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression, including that of human rights defenders, journalists, opponents and activists (Ecuador);
- 143.111 Enact legislation for the protection of human rights defenders (Ukraine);
- 143.112 Guarantee fundamental freedoms, and put an end to arbitrary arrests and detentions of journalists, civil society actors and human rights defenders (France);
- 143.113 Ensure full respect for the right to freedom of expression by preventing and ending harassment of journalists (Ghana);
- 143.114 Ensure the right to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, as well as media freedom (Latvia);
- 143.115 Uphold the right to freedom of expression and refrain from criminalizing the legitimate activities of human rights defenders and journalists and restricting their activities and rights, including by ending arbitrary arrests of journalists and human rights defenders (Netherlands);
- 143.116 Take further steps to widen the presence of labour inspectors across the country so as to strengthen monitoring, enforcement and awareness-raising, with a view to identifying victims of trafficking for their rehabilitation and enrolment in school, as well as prosecution of perpetrators (Botswana);
- 143.117 Redouble the efforts to combat trafficking in persons, particularly children, ensuring that relevant laws reflect international standards, duly prosecuting the offenders and protecting the victims (Brazil);
- 143.118 Strengthen mechanisms to protect women and children from domestic and transnational trafficking (Uganda);
- 143.119 Strengthen activities to combat trafficking in children (Ukraine);
- 143.120 Adopt a comprehensive policy to strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking (Holy See);
- 143.121 Consider strengthening its efforts to combat trafficking in women and children and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women (India);
- 143.122 Combat human trafficking, in particular trafficking of children and women (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 143.123 Continue efforts to combat human trafficking and protect people from slavery (Iraq);

- 143.124 Continue efforts to fight child trafficking, including undertaking awareness campaigns and providing regular training to the security forces at border areas (Lesotho);
- 143.125 Intensify efforts to combat trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, including by strengthening existing policies and programmes (Philippines);
- 143.126 Strengthen its efforts to combat trafficking in children (Poland);
- 143.127 Continue efforts currently under way to reduce poverty, and provide support for social security and health programmes, especially for children and women (Tunisia);
- 143.128 Continue consolidating its care and social protection policies and programmes in order to provide the greatest well-being and standard of living for its people, especially the most vulnerable (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 143.129 Continue implementing measures for reducing poverty, in particular in rural areas and in achieving sustainable development (Azerbaijan);
- 143.130 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development, reduce poverty and improve people's living standards (China);
- 143.131 Pursue efforts to effectively fight poverty and improve the lives of the most vulnerable populations by strengthening measures to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic (Djibouti);
- 143.132 Take the necessary steps to minimize the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people in the most vulnerable situations (Ethiopia);
- 143.133 Align the 2019 Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations (United Arab Emirates);
- 143.134 Continue its commitment to realize the Poverty Reduction Strategy with a focus on employment creation and income generation for people, including people in rural communities (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 143.135 Follow up on efforts made to eradicate poverty in all its forms (Lebanon);
- 143.136 Increase resources to improve access for the population to drinking water, especially in rural areas (Mali);
- 143.137 Strengthen measures to ensure the improvement of the socioeconomic well-being of the people and measures to enhance its capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms (Nigeria);
- 143.138 Strengthen efforts in improving the living conditions of all people, including through bilateral and international technical assistance (Indonesia);
- 143.139 Continue to implement national programmes, strategies and plans for the progressive realization of the rights to education, water, employment and housing, in line with its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (Cuba);
- 143.140 Continue to promote fundamental human rights, including the right to health, access to water, education and the right to adequate standards of living (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 143.141 Expand international partnerships, in accordance with national priorities, to enhance the capabilities of the health sector (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 143.142 Take further effective measures aimed at combating diseases and strengthening the health system (Bahrain);

- 143.143 Continue to increase investment in public health and better protect the people's right to health (China);
- 143.144 Improve the coverage of adolescent-friendly health services (Ukraine);
- 143.145 Continue promoting its health and social benefits system (Eswatini);
- 143.146 Further strengthen the resilience of health emergency preparedness (Ethiopia);
- 143.147 Ensure that everyone has access to quality basic health care by allocating sufficient resources to improve health-care facilities and to recruit qualified personnel (Holy See);
- 143.148 Take further steps to ensure the safety of health-care workers and service providers, by ensuring the adequate provision of personal protection equipment and safe working conditions (Indonesia);
- 143.149 Continue taking steps to ensure the right to health for all by allocating necessary resources (Malaysia);
- 143.150 Pursue efforts in the field of the right to health care, linked to a consolidation of the legislative framework (Morocco);
- 143.151 Continue improving health services and social protection for all citizens (Mozambique);
- 143.152 Improve the access to and quality of health care for women, including maternity care (Philippines);
- 143.153 Strive to allocate sufficient funds for the health sector in order to equip health-care institutions, ensuring thereby the provision of quality basic care and services for newborns (Serbia);
- 143.154 Allocate sufficient resources to the health sector for upgrading and equipping health-care facilities in order to provide a quality basic and comprehensive health-care system (Sudan);
- 143.155 Further improve sexual and reproductive health services, particularly for adolescents, including improved access to contraceptives and safe and legal abortion as well as comprehensive sexuality education (Sweden);
- 143.156 Ensure that primary schools are accessible and free for all students (Turkey);
- 143.157 Remove all additional costs to facilitate the school attendance of all children (Turkey);
- 143.158 Maintain the efforts towards gender equality in education (Turkey);
- 143.159 Fully implement the education law to enforce the provision regarding the compulsory nature of basic education, including the education of girls, the literacy of adults and the education of persons with disabilities (Costa Rica);
- 143.160 Continue to make education a priority by addressing obstacles to school attendance and completion, and ensuring that pregnant girls return to school (Fiji);
- 143.161 Strengthen training and education in the field of human rights in school curricula (United Arab Emirates);
- 143.162 Continue improving the education system, by ensuring that all children have access to primary education, which students can easily benefit from online or through alternative learning facilities, and adopt inclusive education policies for children with disabilities (Holy See);
- 143.163 Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 to integrate comprehensive sexuality education and related policies in the revised national education (Iceland);

- 143.164 Continue taking necessary steps to improve access to primary education (India);
- 143.165 Continue taking steps to realize the right to education and gender equality in education (Malaysia);
- 143.166 Provide compulsory free education at least until the age of 16 (Mauritius);
- 143.167 Pursue efforts on school enrolment and the development of school infrastructure (Morocco);
- 143.168 Fully enforce the new policy of not banning pregnant girls and teenage mothers from attending school (Portugal);
- 143.169 Redouble efforts of the Government to strengthen policies that bolster basic education, including education for girls and education for children with disabilities (South Sudan);
- 143.170 Step up measures towards increasing access to education through the Medium-term National Development Plan (Sri Lanka);
- 143.171 Continue efforts to improve access to quality education, especially by ensuring the implementation of the education sector plan, and pursue efforts towards gender equality in education (Sudan);
- 143.172 Continue their efforts to tackle sexual violence (Tunisia);
- 143.173 Strengthen existing laws and policies designed to advance women's empowerment and to combat violence against women (Zimbabwe);
- 143.174 Continue to develop legislation aimed at eliminating all harmful practices targeting girls and women, and intensify awareness-raising campaigns in this regard (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 143.175 Strengthen the efforts to eradicate the practice of female genital mutilation (Timor-Leste);
- 143.176 Put in place specific measures with all stakeholders to increase the fight against female genital mutilation and hold perpetrators accountable (Angola);
- 143.177 Completely eradicate female genital mutilation, promulgating and launching awareness-raising campaigns and a national debate on the harmful effects of this practice on girls, women and society at large (Argentina);
- 143.178 Take concerted, decisive steps to eliminate female genital mutilation (Armenia);
- 143.179 Implement legislation that prohibits female genital mutilation practices; protect and assist survivors; and support educational outreach to relevant communities on the harms of female genital mutilation (Australia);
- 143.180 Continue its legislative and policy measures in the field of empowerment of women and girls and the rights of persons with disabilities (Azerbaijan);
- 143.181 Criminalize female genital mutilation (Burkina Faso);
- 143.182 Increase efforts to combat female genital mutilation (Burundi);
- 143.183 Explicitly criminalize the practice of female genital mutilation regardless of age and promote social awareness through education campaigns (Canada);
- 143.184 Draw up a national plan of action to combat sexual and gender-based violence, and adopt a law expressly prohibiting female genital mutilation (Chad);
- 143.185 Strengthen the efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

- 143.186 Continue increasing gender equality (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 143.187 Strengthen accountability mechanisms to address sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, including sexual abuse and marital rape (Costa Rica);
- 143.188 Redouble efforts to completely eliminate female genital mutilation (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 143.189 Strengthen efforts in addressing rape and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls, by ensuring accountability and providing support to victims (Croatia);
- 143.190 Implement educational campaigns against female genital mutilation and early and forced marriages, aimed at all stakeholders, and enact legislation aimed at eradicating these harmful practices (Croatia);
- 143.191 Maintain the national efforts deployed in the fight against sexual and gender-based violence, with the objective of empowering women (Cuba);
- 143.192 Take further measures to eliminate gender-based violence and to ensure their effective implementation, including the total legislative ban on female genital mutilation (Czechia);
- 143.193 Prohibit all forms of female genital mutilation (Denmark);
- 143.194 Maintain and strengthen all measures aimed at eradicating female genital mutilation through the adoption and enforcement of laws prohibiting these practices in all their forms (Djibouti);
- 143.195 Increase efforts to fully eliminate female genital mutilation (Ukraine);
- 143.196 Intensify efforts to put an end to the phenomenon of female genital mutilation (Egypt);
- 143.197 Continue improving the rights of women and girls by prohibiting female genital mutilation (Eswatini);
- 143.198 Intensify efforts to fully eliminate female genital mutilation through progressive law reforms that prohibit the practice in all its forms and awareness-raising campaigns on the harmful effects of the practice on girls, women and wider society (Fiji);
- 143.199 Combat all forms of violence against women and girls, including female genital mutilation, and promote their rights, including access to sexual and reproductive rights and health (France);
- 143.200 Adopt a law specifically prohibiting female genital mutilation (Gabon);
- 143.201 Consider a national plan of action to combat sexual and gender-based violence (Gabon);
- 143.202 Enhance its efforts to combat all forms of gender-based discrimination (Georgia);
- 143.203 Accelerate the process of the adoption of the National Strategy for Reduction of Female Genital Mutilation (Georgia);
- 143.204 Ensure an end to the practice of female genital mutilation (Germany);
- 143.205 Implement awareness-raising programmes for parents, women, girls and traditional and religious leaders, as well as suitable legal instruments and financial and structural support for civil society groups fighting against all forms of female genital mutilation (Germany);
- 143.206 Continue to reinforce relevant measures to ensure the elimination of violence against women, including prohibition of all harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (Ghana);

- 143.207 **Address gender-based violence against women and girls, including through the approval of the National Strategy for the Reduction of Female Genital Mutilation (Ireland);**
- 143.208 **Criminalize forced marriage and provide ongoing support to victims of forced marriage and victims of modern slavery (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 143.209 **Continue to progressively end the existence of female genital mutilation (Kenya);**
- 143.210 **Take all necessary measures, both in law and in practice, to combat violence against women and girls, domestic violence and female genital mutilation, as well as child, early and forced marriage, including by criminalizing female genital mutilation (Latvia);**
- 143.211 **Eliminate female genital mutilation (Lebanon);**
- 143.212 **Develop a national action plan to address sexual and gender-based violence, and increase efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation by enacting specific legislation (Malawi);**
- 143.213 **Continue taking steps to address adequately sexual and gender-based violence (Malaysia);**
- 143.214 **Allocate increased budget resources to address sexual and gender-based violence, improving access to services and justice for survivors (United States of America);**
- 143.215 **Establish a legal framework to fully and effectively eradicate female genital mutilation (Mexico);**
- 143.216 **Continue with the campaign to end sexual-based violence towards women and girls (Mozambique);**
- 143.217 **Adopt and implement legislation that prohibits female genital mutilation in all its forms (Namibia);**
- 143.218 **Continue measures to prevent sexual and gender-based violence, including the traditional harmful practices against women and girls (Nepal);**
- 143.219 **Adopt and implement legislation and policies to end the practice of female genital mutilation, including through awareness-raising campaigns (Netherlands);**
- 143.220 **Develop a national action plan to address sexual and gender-based violence and enact a specific law to prohibit female genital mutilation (South Africa);**
- 143.221 **Legally prohibit all forms of female genital mutilation and conduct awareness-raising campaigns (Spain);**
- 143.222 **Intensify efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence and impunity for such crimes, by, inter alia, strengthening training of police officials, medical officers and employees of the judiciary, as well as awareness-raising for the wider community (Sweden);**
- 143.223 **Enact and enforce a comprehensive national law that prohibits the practice of female genital mutilation, and support educational outreach, including to local paramount chiefs, on the harms of female genital mutilation (Sweden);**
- 143.224 **Redouble efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation, by the promulgation of legislation that prohibits this practice and the development of awareness-raising campaigns about its harmful effects (Peru);**
- 143.225 **Continue efforts to holistically address and prevent sexual and gender-based violence (Philippines);**

- 143.226 Fully eliminate female genital mutilation by, inter alia, enacting and enforcing legislation that prohibits female genital mutilation in all its forms, and by carrying out awareness-raising campaigns on the harmful effects of the practice on women and girls (Portugal);
- 143.227 Take effective measures to combat violence against women (Russian Federation);
- 143.228 Intensify efforts to fully eliminate female genital mutilation (Rwanda);
- 143.229 Increase efforts to fully eliminate female genital mutilation, by enacting and enforcing legislation that prohibits the practice in all forms (Zambia);
- 143.230 Develop a national action plan to address sexual and gender-based violence (Slovenia);
- 143.231 Enact a specific law to prohibit female genital mutilation (Slovenia);
- 143.232 Adopt measures for combating sexual and gender-based violence, for access to justice and for women's empowerment, as well as for poverty reduction (Nigeria);
- 143.233 Expedite the enactment of the Gender Equality Bill and fully implement the Amended Sexual Offences Act of 2019, including through providing adequate resources for its implementation (Iceland);
- 143.234 Accelerate the enactment of the bill on gender equality (Albania);
- 143.235 Continue taking measures to further enhance education for development of human capital to facilitate the transformation of women's empowerment, health improvement, creation of employment and other sectors (Cambodia);
- 143.236 Continue taking additional steps to increase women's representation in Parliament, government and municipalities (Cambodia);
- 143.237 Encourage the empowerment and participation of women in political life (Cameroon);
- 143.238 Continue to implement the National Gender Strategic Plan, promote gender equality and better protect women's rights (China);
- 143.239 Pursue national efforts aimed at increasing women's empowerment and eliminating all forms of discrimination against women (Egypt);
- 143.240 Strengthen regulations on gender equality to expand meaningful and equitable opportunities for girls and women to learn and prosper (Indonesia);
- 143.241 Promote efforts forward to empowering women for participation in decision-making positions (Iraq);
- 143.242 Implement the recently launched Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy in its entirety (Ireland);
- 143.243 Continue to implement its gender mainstreaming policy to further promote gender parity and women's empowerment (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 143.244 Promote gender equality (Latvia);
- 143.245 Sustain efforts towards successfully implementing the gender equality and women's empowerment policy (Pakistan);
- 143.246 Expedite the enactment of the Gender Equality Bill, which provides for a minimum of 30 per cent representation of women in Parliament, local councils, ministries, departments and agencies (South Africa);
- 143.247 Intensify its efforts to eliminate discrimination against children in the most vulnerable conditions (Timor-Leste);

- 143.248 **Adopt legislative and other measures to prevent and end the practice of child marriage (Togo);**
- 143.249 **Harmonize laws to prevent and eliminate child marriage and undertake comprehensive awareness-raising campaigns on the negative consequences of child marriage on girls (Belgium);**
- 143.250 **Strengthen the civil registration mechanisms and ensure that every child is registered immediately after birth (Turkey);**
- 143.251 **Strengthen the nationwide structures responsible for registration of births, with a view to achieving the timely registration of all births and the clearing of backlogs with respect to unregistered children (Botswana);**
- 143.252 **Enforce the Child Rights Act and enact the bill on prohibition of child marriage (Chad);**
- 143.253 **Strengthen efforts to put an end to child marriage (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**
- 143.254 **Combat exploitation of children, in particular through the implementation of the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) (France);**
- 143.255 **Finalize the adoption of the bill on the prohibition of child marriage (Gabon);**
- 143.256 **Reform the measures adopted by the Government for the prohibition and elimination of child marriage. In this regard, provide additional funding for State programmes and awareness campaigns, as well as to guarantee psychological and legal support for victims of child marriage (Costa Rica);**
- 143.257 **Continue ongoing efforts to end child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation as well as all other forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls (Italy);**
- 143.258 **Harmonize laws to prevent and eliminate child marriage and undertake comprehensive awareness-raising campaigns on the negative consequences of child marriage on girls (South Africa);**
- 143.259 **Continue to strengthen civil registration mechanisms (Angola);**
- 143.260 **Strengthen civil registration mechanisms to guarantee proceeding with the late registration of births (Chile);**
- 143.261 **Strengthen the mechanisms for registering civil status events, so that each child is registered immediately after birth (Côte d’Ivoire);**
- 143.262 **Eliminate discrimination against children in the most vulnerable situations, such as girls, children with disabilities, children living with HIV/AIDS, children orphaned as a result of Ebola and children in rural settings (Eswatini);**
- 143.263 **Strengthen efforts to promote and protect the rights of children, including ending child labour, early marriage, and sexual violence against children, as well as working towards the physical and psychological recovery of former child soldiers (Japan);**
- 143.264 **Take the necessary steps to review conflicting provisions in child protection laws (Kenya);**
- 143.265 **Strengthen efforts to eliminate discrimination against children in vulnerable situations, among others children with disabilities and children living with HIV/AIDS (Malaysia);**
- 143.266 **Take necessary measures to prevent early marriages (Mozambique);**
- 143.267 **Strengthen its commitment to the prevention of adolescent pregnancies and child sexual abuse through the prompt completion and**

implementation of the National Manual of Comprehensive Sexual Education, as well as through the full implementation of the National Strategy for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy and Child Marriage (Uruguay);

143.268 Continue efforts to eliminate child labour (Poland);

143.269 Promote and protect the rights of the child, by providing the necessary support to the National Commission for Children and also by increasing the budget allocated to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (Somalia);

143.270 Continue efforts to strengthen policies and strategies to prevent social conflict and discrimination against minorities (Somalia);

143.271 Take concrete measures to tackle stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their families and to ensure them timely and adequate access to health services (Portugal);

143.272 Adopt and implement an inclusive education policy for persons with disabilities (Chad);

143.273 Further improve access of persons with disabilities to education and health care (Poland);

143.274 Strengthen the protection of refugees (Cameroon).

144. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

III. Voluntary pledges and commitments

- To review the provisions applicable to children under the age of 14 in the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2019, the Sentencing Guidelines for Sexual Penetration Cases and related instruments to bring it into line with the Child Rights Act 2007 and international standards on child rights;
- To implement the decision of Cabinet approving the recommendations made by the committee on the Justice Cowan Constitutional Review Report and the 2018 Government White Paper, and to finalize the constitutional review process;
- To legislate to abolish the death penalty in line with its international human rights obligations, the public pronouncement of the President, and the decision of Cabinet to abolish the death penalty.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Sierra Leone was headed by Anthony Yehwoe Brewah, Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, and composed of the following members:

- FRANCIS, Professor David John, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;
 - TARAWALLI, Manty, Minister of Gender and Children's Affairs;
 - BANGALIE, Florence, Director-General and Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;
 - GBERIE (PhD), Lansana Alison, Ambassador and Permanent Representative;
 - SAFFA Esq., Samuel Housman Buggie, Deputy Permanent Representative;
 - KABBA, Ahmed Tejan, Acting Deputy Director-General for Policy Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;
 - KOROMA Esq., Patrick Hassan Morlai, Minister Counsellor;
 - KORJIE, Shahid M., Coordinator, Justice Sector Coordinating Office.
-